

Stormwater Fees

Funding for stormwater management comes from the stormwater utility fee included on your utility bill. This fee is based on the amount of impervious (hard) surface area on a property and the cost of providing stormwater services.

Single Family Fees

Single family households pay a basic flat rate of \$5 per month (\$10 per utility bill).

Commercial-Type Fees

Commercial-type properties typically have more impervious surface area than residential properties, thus creating more runoff and a greater burden on the drainage system.

To determine commercial fees, the City measures the amount of impervious surface area on a parcel of property and the owners are charged \$5 per month for every 2,500 square feet of impervious surface.

Utility Billing Questions: 341-7806

All fees go into the Stormwater Utility Fund and are used only for stormwater management activities.

Stormwater Services - Activities

- ◆ Strategic Planning
- ◆ Engineering and Design
- ◆ Construction/Capital Projects Management
- ◆ Routine and Preventative Maintenance
- ◆ Street Sweeping
- ◆ Retention Pond Inspections
- ◆ Public Outreach and Education
- ◆ Customer Service



Top 10 Ways You Can Protect Wilmington's Waterways

1. **Never put anything** into a storm drain, drainage ditch, or creek.
2. **Always clean up** after your pet.
3. **Get a free soil test** from the Cooperative Extension to learn the exact nutrients your lawn needs. Do not over-fertilize, fertilize the sidewalk, or fertilize before it rains. Use native plants to reduce fertilizer and pesticide use.
4. **Keep yard waste out of storm drains**, ditches, and streets. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to act as a natural fertilizer.
5. **Put litter in the trash.** Reduce, reuse, and recycle.
6. **Wash your car on the grass** or at a commercial carwash.
7. **Recycle used auto fluids**, like oil and antifreeze, at an auto parts store or the County landfill.
8. **Dispose of chemicals**, like paint and pesticides, at Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.
9. **Check your vehicle** for leaks and repair them.
10. **Tell a friend or neighbor** how they can help protect our waterways too!



Public Services Department

STORMWATER SERVICES

Stormwater Services maintains and improves the public drainage system for the protection of our community and the environment.

City of Wilmington
Stormwater Services
PO Box 1810
Wilmington, NC 28402
Tel: 910 343-4777
TDD: 910 341-7873
www.wilmingtonnc.gov

When It Rains, It Drains

When it rains, the water that hits the ground has three basic options: soak into the ground, evaporate, or become stormwater runoff. In natural settings, rainwater is slowed and filtered by plants, soil, and other natural buffers. However, when rain falls on impervious (hard) surfaces such as rooftops, roads, and parking lots, it becomes stormwater runoff.

Stormwater runoff increases as the amount of impervious surface increases. **Runoff flows faster across impervious surfaces and also picks up pollutants.**

In Wilmington, stormwater runoff is channeled into a complex, interconnected system of storm drains, pipes, ditches, ponds, culverts, wetlands, and creeks. The following creeks form the backbone of Wilmington's drainage system: Barnards Creek, Bradley Creek, Burnt Mill Creek, Greenfield Lake, Hewletts Creek, Howe Creek, Smith Creek, and Whiskey Creek.



Impervious surfaces increase the **QUANTITY** and decrease the **QUALITY** of stormwater runoff

Drainage System

Stormwater Services maintains the drainage system within the public right-of-way or accepted easements. Runoff from private property eventually drains into the public drainage system or receiving waterways. Because the public drainage system routes stormwater from higher land away from lower-lying properties and public roads, it serves a protective purpose.

Roadside ditches and drainage improvements significantly reduce flooding on downstream roads and property. The public drainage system protects both public and private property from the impacts of stormwater.

With the current level of resources, Stormwater Services is able to be proactive in our approach to stormwater management and effectively respond to situations as they arise.



In response to citizen demands for better drainage management, the City of Wilmington implemented a fee-supported stormwater utility to expand maintenance efforts and make improvements to the drainage system



Comprehensive

Stormwater Services is dedicated to the comprehensive management of the public drainage system.

Comprehensive stormwater management includes: capital improvement projects, long range planning, preventative maintenance, and public education about stormwater runoff, water quality, and pollution prevention.

Since stormwater runoff is a primary source of water quality impairment, pollution prevention is integrated into stormwater projects whenever possible. In addition, the City of Wilmington is required to hold a permit from the state as part of EPA stormwater regulations.

Comprehensive management allows Stormwater Services to budget and set stormwater utility fees based on the actual costs of providing services, preventive maintenance, and funding for much needed drainage improvement projects.



Our goal is to manage the **QUANTITY** and **QUALITY** of stormwater runoff in a **COMPREHENSIVE MANNER**

Stormwater runoff does not go to a treatment plant! Learn more at: www.wilmingtonnc.gov

Stormwater runoff carries pollutants (such as automobile fluids, fertilizers, pesticides, yard debris, litter, pet waste, and sediment) into the storm drainage system. This polluted runoff does not go to a treatment plant, but instead flows directly into our creeks, streams, and primary waterways like the Cape Fear River and Intracoastal Waterway - untreated!

Polluted stormwater runoff is the #1 source of water pollution in North Carolina